

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINR, SW
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: (A) STATE 155188, (B) BRUMFIELD-TURNQUIST TELCON OF 06/15/78

1. ELIS INGEMAR ELIASSON WAS APPOINTED UNDERSECRETARY OF LABOR ON OCTOBER 14, 1978. ELIASSON IS A MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY (FOLDPARTIET, FP) AS ARE THE TWO MINISTERS UNDER WHOM HE HAS SERVED, PER AHLMARK AND ROLF WIRTEN. HE IS A POLITICAL APPOINTEE. ELIASSON WAS BORN ON [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 11 DEC 2014] IN THE PROVINCE OF VARMLAND. HE WAS EDUCATED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND RECEIVED A DEGREE IN BUSINESS ECONOMICS IN 1963. HE WAS A HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMICS TEACHER UNTIL 1969 WHEN HIS ADEPTNESS AS A CITY COUNCIL MAN IN THIS HOME TOWN OS HALLSTAHAMMAR LED THE LIBERAL PARTY TO OFFER HIM A JOB IN ITS PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION'S OFFICE IN STOCKHOLM. IN 1974 ELIASSON BECAME THE CHIEF OF THE LIBERAL PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT OPERATION WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL HE MOVED TO THE LABOR MINISTRY IN 1976. IN 1971 ELIASSON TOOK AN ADDITIONAL DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM THE STOCKHOLM SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS TO SUPPLEMENT HIS EARLIER TEACHING CREDENTIALS. AS UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR ELIASSON SERVES ON A NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS INCLUDING THE EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION. HE MAINTAINS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIS INTEREST IN LOCAL POLITICAS HAVING BEEN ELECTED TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IN HIS STOCKHOLM SUBURB IN 1976.

PARTICULARLY DURING HIS FIRST YEAR AND A HALF IN OFFICE WHEN PARTY LEADER PER AHLMARK SERVED AS MINISTER ELIASSON EXERCISED OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY AND, IT IS SUSPECTED, CONSULTED WITH AHLMARK ON ONLY THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

IN ESSENCE WHEN AHLMARK MOVED FROM THE PARLIMENT TO THE MINISTRY HE TOOK HIS LONG TIME AND TRUSTED CHIEF-OF-STAFF, ELIASSON, ALONG WITH HIM. ELIASSON SEEMS TO HAVE MAINTAINED HIS STRONG POSITION WITH THE NEW MINISTER, ROLF WIRTEN, WHO ALSO IS ACCUSTOMED TO WORKING WITH HIM FROM THE DAYS OF OPPOSITION IN THE PARLIAMENT.

ELIASSON APPEARS TO HAVE DELVELOPED A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LARGELY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC STAFF OF THE MINISTRY. ONE SENSES THAT GOVERNING IS A LEARNING PROCESS FOR ELIASSON, AS IT IS FOR MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES AFTER FORTY-FOUR YEARS IN OPPOSITION, BUT ONE ALSO GET THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS PROVING A FAIRLY QUICK STUDY IN GRASPING THE ESSENCE OF BUREAUCRACY. ELIASSON HOSTED UNDER SECRETARY BROWN AT A DINNER AT THE OPERA-KALLAREN RESTURANT DURING THE UNDER SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO STOCKHOLM. ELIASSON SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, CARIN, DURING, HIS JULY VISIT TO WASHINGTON. SWEDISH LABOR ATTACHE BJORN PETTERSSON HAS THE DETAILS REGARDING THE PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT WHICH INCLUDES MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS AND NEW YORK AS WELL AS WASHINGTON. NO PHOTO IS AVAILABLE.

2. BERT ISACSSON IS A VETERAN CAREER OFFICIAL AT THE LABOR MINISTRY WHO HAS SERVED AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. HE APPEARS TO BE IN HIS MID-FORTIES AND IS MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN. EARLY IN HIS CAREER WITH THE GOVERNMENT HE SERVED IN FINALND FOR ABOUT FOUR YEARS.
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HE HAS TRADITIONALLY MAINTAINED AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. LABOR ATTACHE AND HAS PROVED A GOOD FRIEND ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. HE IS A SHREWD OBSERVED OF BOTH THE SWEDISH AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR MARKET SCENE AND HAS A LONG TIME LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE ILO AND GENEVA. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED AT BEING DEFEATED BY THE SPANISH FOR A SEAT ON THE GOVERNING BODY BUT IS RELIEVED THAT HE WAS ELECTED AS AN ALTERNATE. ISACSSON ALSO DINED WITH UNDER SECRETARY BROWN DURING THE LATTER'S STOCKHOLM VISIT. HIS ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT.

FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ISACSSON WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 26. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM GENEVA OVER THE WEEKEND AND HE AND THE LABOR ATTACHE HAVE A DATE FOR LUNCH EARLY NEXT WEEK. NO PHOTO IS AVAILABLE.

3. PLEASE TRANSMIT UNDER SECRETARY BROWN'S LETTER OF INVITATION TO UNDER SECRETARY ELIASSON SOONEST. (REF B).
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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